National river interlinking project

†838.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present Status of the 'National River Interlinking Project' launched during the NDA regime;

(b) the details of allocation of budget for this project made by the NDA Government and the present Government;

(c) whether Government believe that the National calamity such as flood and drought could be avoided through this project; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government for this project during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a), (c) and (d) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (*erstwhile* Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely. Himalayan Rivers Development Component and *Peninsular* Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give conc rete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links. (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed.

The Inter-linking proposals under NPP envisages additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface water, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34 Thousand MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity & pollution control etc.

As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government interlinking of rivers (ILR) programme is being pursued with focus on peninsular component and five peninsular links have been identified as priority links for consensus building between the concerned States. The consensus group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) has held seven meetings during last five years, one for Ken - Betwa link, three for Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal link, one for Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) link and two for Par – Tapi – Narmada & Damanganga – Pinjal links together. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Union Minister of Water Resources and Chief Ministers of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Government of Uttar Pradesh on 25.8.2005 for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one of the priority link namely Ken-Betwa. NWDA has completed its DPR in December, 2008. Further the Government of Maharashtra & Gujarat also conveyed their concurrence for preparation of DPRs of Par -Tapi - Narmada & Damanganga - Pinjal links and NWDA has taken up their DPRs which are planned to be completed by December, 2011.

(b) Depending upon the requirement, the Grant-in-aid released to NWDA during the period of NDA Government & Present Government are given below:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

	Rs. Crore
(i) NDA Government (1999-2000 to 2003-04)	73.23
(ii) Present Government (2004-2005 to 2008-2009 (up to 31st January 2009)	106.41

Protection of natural sources of water in Uttarakhand

†839.SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any scheme for the protection and promotion of constantly decreasing natural sources of water in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The State Government of Uttarakhand is implementing a World Bank aided "Uttarakhand Decentralised Watershed Development Project" costing Rs. 402 crore in 76 selected micro-watersheds of 11 districts since September, 2004 for protection of water resources of the State and to promote natural water sources.

Irrigation projects in West Bengal

840. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medium irrigation projects, out of the total 221 projects as per the Tenth Plan undertaken in West Bengal in the Tenth Plan;

(b) the details of medium irrigation projects proposed to be undertaken in the Eleventh Plan;

(c) the amount that has been allotted and released for the above projects in the Tenth Plan and the Eleventh Plan;

(d) whether it is a fact that many medium projects are delayed due to non-release of money by his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per information available in Central Water Commission, nine medium irrigation projects in West Bengal were ongoing during X Plan and eight of them have spilled over to XI Plan. The details of these projects are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) In addition to above eight medium projects which spilled over from X Plan, twelve new medium irrigation projects are proposed to be taken up during XI Plan in the State of West Bengal. The details of these twelve new medium projects are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Irrigation is a State subject and the projects are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Governments from their own resources as per their own priorities. Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Government under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing projects as per the guidelines of the programme in force from time to time.

The details of CLA/Grant released for medium irrigation projects of West Bengal during X Plan and XI Plan are given in Statement-III.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.